REMARKS

Claims 8-27 are now in this application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge a fee of \$120.00, for a first month extension

of time, and any or all other necessary fees in connection with this communication to Deposit

Account Number 07-2100.

By this amendment, the abstract and claims 10 and 11 have been revised as suggested by

the examiner.

Also, new claims 20-27 have been presented. Claim 20 is a new independent claim

which is loosely based on claim 8. However, in claim 20 the air and reducing agent are clearly

acted on by structure which introduces both of them into the mixing chamber as an aerosol, and

in the last four lines of claim 20, at least part of these means, along with the mixing chamber, are

recited to be secured to or integrated with a block of an electrically conductive plastic. Further,

claim 20 clearly recites that the aerosol is dispensed into an aerosol line which communicates to

the exhaust system.

Claims 21-27 are basically copies of claims 9-14 and 17-18, respectively, except having

their dependency modified as appropriate.

In paragraph 5 of the Office action, the examiner rejected claims 8-19 as unpatentable

over Hofmann et al in view of Moore et al. The examiner's rejection is traversed for the

following reasons.

First, the examiner has called valve 20 of Hofmann et al a mixing chamber. At column

7, lines 53-61, Hofmann et al describe valve 20 as having three states of operation. In the first

Page 8 of 13

state, valve 20 opens the flow through line 12 and communicates line 12 to exhaust system 42.

In its second state the valve 20 closes line 12 from source 6, and pressure from source 28 blows

all urea solution from valve 20 through to nozzle 22, clearing this portion of the urea line. In

its third state, valve 20 closes line 12 towards nozzle 22, and allows air from source 28 to clear

urea solution from valve 20 back towards reservoir 6. Hofmann et al never recites that any form

of mixing occurs in valve 20.

Thus, contrary to the examiner's allegation, valve 20 is not a mixing chamber.

As a consequence of understanding this, it becomes clear that Hofmann et al does not

teach a chamber which mixes any reducing agent, urea or otherwise, with air as recited in the

claims. And Hofmann et al does not teach any means for delivery of air into a mixing chamber.

Hofmann et al does not teach any means for metered delivery of any reducing agent into a mixing

chamber. Hofmann et al does not have any means for forming an aerosol of air and reducing

agent. And Hofmann et al does not have any means for metered dispensing of any aerosol

consisting of the air-reducing agent as mixed in the claimed mixing chamber.

Next, the examiner calls means 34 of Hofmann et al a means for forming an aerosol.

But 34 is merely the block of movable part of valve 20. It does not form an aerosol. And

nowhere in Hofmann et al is there any mention of means for forming an aerosol. The closest to

such a recitation occurs in column 3 lines 62+ of Hofmann et al, wherein it is stated that the

liquid can be atomized when it is introduced into the flow medium at the outlet opening (in all

other sections of Hofmann et al where "outlet opening" is recited, it is the outlet opening 22,

which is within the exhaust system 42).

Page 9 of 13

Appl. No. 10/019,020

Amdt. dated September 12, 2005

Reply to Office action of May 18, 2005

In column 3 Hofmann et al go on to recite that the atomization is created at the outlet

opening through the use of pressurized air which is introduced into the supply line through the

back flush valve. But Hofmann et al give no explanation of how this might happen, and no

showing of any structure whatsoever which could make it happen, especially not within back

flush valve 20. The back flush valve 20 is not shown to have, and is not disclosed to have, any

means for introducing air when the valve 20 is in position to allow line 12 to communicate with

outlet opening 22.

Clearly, the teaching of Hofmann et al is lacking in these respects, is ambiguous and

cannot properly be used as a teaching of the means which applicants are reciting in the claims.

The examiner goes on to say that Hofmann et al include means for metered dispensing

of the aerosol. Again, since Hofmann et al is not clear about any teaching for forming an aerosol,

there can certainly not be any teaching of metering such aerosol. Moreover, at best valve 20 can

be placed in its middle position as shown in figure 4, and this permits fluid to flow through the

line 12, but this is not the same as the metering as is recited in applicants' claims.

The examiner might possibly be able to argue that for the very briefest of moments, as

section 34 of valve 20 is first opened, there could be a very small amount of aerosol accidentally

created. But if so, it is only an infinitesimal amount, certainly not enough to be considered as

an operating state of the device of Hofmann et al. As opposed to such a strained reading,

applicants' claims recite, as part of the apparatus for metering the reducing agent, a means for

metered dispensing of the aerosol into an aerosol line. Clearly Hofmann et al does not teach this

aspect of applicants' recited structure.

Page 10 of 13

Appl. No. 10/019,020

Amdt. dated September 12, 2005

Reply to Office action of May 18, 2005

But even if, arguendo, it can be said that an aerosol is accidentally formed, it is still not

seen where the examiner feels there is any means for metered dispensing of such aerosol into an

aerosol line, nor is it seen that Hofmann et al teaches any structure which could be said that the

air delivery is meterable. And it cannot be agreed that the valve 20 is a mixing means. Section

34 of the valve is not a means for forming an aerosol, it is merely the section of valve 20 which

permits blowing out of line 12 from valve 20 to outlet opening 22. And further, Hofmann et al

does not provide any means for metered dispensing of any aerosol, even if somehow such an

aerosol were created.

The examiner has added the reference to Moore et al to the teaching of Hofmann et al so

as to add the teaching of a heater. Such teaching, and the obviousness of adding a heater to

Hofmann et al is not controverted, as Hofmann et al already have a heater taught at elements

44-46. But Moore et al does not teach anything which could be considered to provide the

deficiencies mentioned above with respect to Hofmann et al. For the rejection of the claims to

be a valid rejection, Hofmann et al would first have to teach the basic structure recited in the

claims. However, Hofmann et al does not do this.

Page 11 of 13

Appl. No. 10/019,020 Amdt. dated September 12, 2005 Reply to Office action of May 18, 2005

For the above reasons, entry of the amendment and allowance of the claims are courteously solicited.

Respectfully subplitted,

Royald E. Greigg

Attorney for Applicants Registration No. 31,517

CUSTOMER NO. 02119

GREIGG & GREIGG, P.L.L.C. 1423 Powhatan Street, Suite One Alexandria, VA 22314 Tel. (703) 838-5500 Fax. (703) 838-5554

REG/SLS/hhl

J:\Bosch\R36040-1\Reply to 5-18-05 OA.wpd